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All Members Ages 6 months and Older are Now Eligible for the New Bivalent COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Shots

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On December 8, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration [announced](#) that the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine booster shots are now available for Mainers **ages 6 months and older**.

Individuals ages five years and older may receive the bivalent vaccine booster dose at least two months after completing the primary series from Pfizer BioN-Tech or Moderna. Individuals ages 12 and older who received the Novavax vaccine may receive the bivalent booster vaccine at least two months after completion of the two dose primary series. Individuals ages 18 and older who received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine may receive the bivalent booster dose at least two months after completing the one dose primary series.

Individuals ages six months to four years who are administered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine will receive the bivalent vaccine as a third dose in their primary series. Individuals ages six months to five years who are administered the Moderna vaccine will receive the bivalent booster vaccine at least two months after completion of the two dose primary series. At this time, there is no mix and match options for this age group and the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccine.

See the questions and answers below for more information.

Why should I get a booster shot?

The protection against COVID-19 through a vaccine decreases over time. This means that, over time, you have less immunity to the virus than when you were first vaccinated. To help you stay protected against COVID-19, the Maine CDC recommends that everyone age six months and older get the new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster shot. ^[1]

Am I eligible for a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster shot?

All individuals five years and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose if they have completed the two-dose Pfizer BioNTech primary vaccine series at least two months ago. Individuals ages six months to four years will receive the bivalent vaccine as the third dose in their primary series.

All individuals 6 months and older are eligible to receive the Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose if they have completed the two dose primary vaccine series at least two months ago.

All individuals 12 years and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose if they have completed the two dose Novavax primary vaccine series at least two months ago.

All individuals 18 years and older are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose if they have completed the one dose Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) primary vaccine at least two months ago.

Am I eligible for the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose if I am immunocompromised?

Individuals who are immunocompromised should always check with their **doctor** regarding their risks for developing COVID-19 and their immune systems response to the COVID-19 vaccines. You may need an extra vaccine in the primary series in addition to the new bivalent booster.

Can I get a different booster type than the vaccine I originally received?

All individuals ages 6 years and older can mix and match vaccine types for the bivalent booster. You may choose which booster shot you get. Some people may prefer the vaccine type that they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different booster. If you have a preference in the bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster dose you receive, please check with the location in which you are getting the booster for availability.

What if I have had a reaction to the Pfizer Bio-NTech or Moderna vaccines in the past?

On October 19, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine booster could be provided to people who may have had a reaction to the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine. You must be 18 years or older for this option.

Do I have to pay anything for my bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster shot?

No, you will not have to pay for your bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster shot. The booster shot will be available at no cost to you.

Where can I get a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster shot?

To find a location to get a booster shot:

- Look for a vaccination site at [COVID-19 Vaccination in Maine](#)
- Check with your local pharmacy or doctor's office

Can I get a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine booster and a flu shot at the same time?

Yes, it is safe to get a booster shot and your flu shot at the same time. For your own comfort, you may want to get the two shots in different arms in case you feel some soreness where you get the shots.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, boosters, and more, please review [these FAQs](#).